To: Apanian, David M.[Apanian.David@epa.gov]
Cc: Webster, James[Webster.James@epa.gov]; Smith, Art[Smith.Art@epa.gov]; Ball, Stephen[Ball.Stephen@epa.gov]
From: Andrew, Gary
Sent: Wed 1/15/2014 10:26:44 PM
Subject: Methylcyclohexane Methanol Release
MCHM_Conc_2014_ppm.xlsx

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NRC# 1070627 – Ohio River MCHM Spill, Kanawha County, West Virginia/Ashland, Boyd County, Kentucky

OSC Art Smith is mobilizing to Cincinnati, Ohio to ensure the response to the Ohio River MCHM Spill. MCHM has been detected down river near Ashland, Kentucky and EPA Region 4 and KYDEP are concerned about further impact downstream. OSC Smith plans to integrate with ORSANCO and facilitate data sharing and transfer with EPA and KYDEP as well as review data quality and response adequacy. OSC Smith will also activate ERT personnel to assist with data and method reviews and potential future supplemental sampling. – OSC Smith – 502-905-7559

Dave,

I do not know if you saw the above item in the ERNS report this morning, but we have been monitoring this situation since last week when West Virginia identified a release from Freedom Industries in Charleston W Va. The material is used to wash coal. The RRT was activated Friday afternoon at the request of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In hindsight I should have included you on the call at that time. We learned that the American Water intake was just a mile downstream from the release and had been impacted. Health officials established a 1ppm standard for safety at that time and the distribution lines had to be flushed. The chemical is noted to have a strong licorice odor (and taste to some) detectable by humans down to the 1ppb range. Far lower than any health concern. Elevated levels of MCHM in the Elk River reportedly exceeded this "detection" concentration and thus triggered concern in Region 4. The release was approximately 7500 gallons with a quantity never leaving the secondary containment. During the RRT call we offered to support KY with any needs.

Yesterday they took us up o that offer and Art Smith was dispatched to Cincinnati to help with data interpretation and information flow. He is currently at the ORSANCO headquarters there. Art has requested some contractor and IMT support for the Planning section and PIO support. ORSANCO is coordinating sampling in the Ohio river. Many agencies and public utilities have been taking samples along the length of the three rivers so far impacted. Currently activity is focused in the Cincinnati area where both the Cincinnati water works and Northern Kentucky waterworks have been shut down since last night at midnight. They are relying on reserves to get

them through the intake shut down (expected to end 0700 Thursday). Sampling for both facilities has been run through one dedicated GCMS sing the "DuPont" method developed for this chemical. Please refer to the attached graph to see the concentration of the chemical as it passed through the Huntington area earlier. There should be one from Cincinnati available tomorrow. It should be mentioned that additional carbon filtration at the Huntington intake removed the contaminant from the raw water.

In Louisville, KY the City will do all of the sampling. Louisville only has a 6 hour reserve, so they are being vigilant with monitoring activities already. In fact they are beginning their sampling right now in Cincinnati and will be tracking it all of the way to their intake. Huntington continues to sample every four hours to ensure no additional plumes come down from the source. KY DEP is trying to fill in sampling gaps and provide consistency as two different analytical methods have been employed during the response. Kevin Stroemyer, KYDEP, divided the Ohio river into three sections (Cincinnati, Louisville, and Ashland). His group is taking both raw water samples and finish samples from facilities in this area. They may be taking samples in the River as well, but I am not certain. They will try to stay ahead of the plume. The last intake is in Paducah and they may sample to that point. They are sharing sampling protocols and analysis methodology spo that all organizations might approach this consistently. At least Kentucky's approach will be consistent all the way down the KY line.

I will forward you the latest HotSite report from Region 3 under separate cover. I will also keep you informed as Art begins to generate Sit Reps. Please refer to the websites at OSC.net. R4's www.epaosc.org/ohiorivermchm The R3 website is:
www.epaosc.org/CharlestonWVChemicalLeak

Respectfully,

Gary A. Andrew, CHMM

On Scene Coordinator

EPA RRT IV Coordinator

678-733-1621